

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A refining chamber made essentially of platinum group metal material for glass production, comprising: a chamber in the shape of a tube having a cross section, wherein the cross section of the refining chamber is, in at least one segment, shaped in the form of an ellipse or an oval so that in the operating position the length of a horizontal line that divides ~~the~~ a surface of the cross section into a lower and an upper section of the surface, both of which have essentially the same area, is greater than twice the maximum vertical extent of the lower segment of the surface, wherein the refining chamber has a wall thickness of approximately 0.5 mm to 3 mm and is stiffened by shaping measures, said shaping measures comprising forming of creases, corners, waves, folds, or combinations thereof, at the circumference of the refining chamber.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The refining chamber according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the horizontal line to the maximum vertical extent of the lower segment of the surface is between 2.5:1 and 5:1.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The refining chamber according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the horizontal line to the maximum vertical extent of the lower ~~section~~ segment of the surface is between 3:1 and 4:1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The refining chamber according to claim 1, wherein the refining chamber is essentially manufactured from an ODS material ~~and preferably a FKS-16 Pt alloy.~~

Claim 6 (previously presented): A process for refining glass in which the molten glass flows through a tubular refining chamber of claim 1, comprising: allowing glass in the molten state at a temperature of 1000 °C to 1700 °C to flow through the refining chamber, wherein the cross section of the refining chamber is, in at least one segment, shaped in the form of an ellipse or an oval so that in the operating position, the length of a horizontal line that divides the surface of the cross section into a lower and an upper section of the surface, both of which have essentially the same area, is greater than twice the maximum vertical extent of the lower segment of the surface and the level of the molten glass is adjusted in such a way that the surface of the glass perpendicular to the direction of flow of the molten glass has a width which is more than twice as great as the maximum vertical extent of the molten glass in the refining chamber.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A process for producing ~~the~~ a refining chamber made essentially of a platinum group metal material, the process ~~of claim 1~~ comprising: inserting a smooth-walled tubular segment into a cylindrical mold having an inside diameter essentially the same as the outside diameter of the tubular segment, and which has radial corrugation-like depressions, closing the two axial ends with a compression tool, filling the space thus formed completely with a hydraulic liquid, and then, by exerting an axial compression through the compression tools, generating an internal hydraulic pressure so that the walls of the tubular segment are corrugated to match the depressions in the mold with simultaneous shortening of the tubular segment, wherein the refining chamber produced comprises a chamber in the shape of a tube having a cross section, wherein the cross section of the refining chamber is, in at least one segment, shaped in the form of an ellipse or an oval so that in the operating position the length of a horizontal line that divides a surface of the cross section into a lower and an upper section of the surface, both of which have essentially the same area, is greater than twice the maximum vertical extent of the lower segment of the surface.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Use of~~ A method of using the refining chamber of claim 1 for refining glass, the method comprising (i) providing molten glass and (ii) allowing the molten glass to flow through the refining chamber of claim 1.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process for producing the refining chamber of claim 1, wherein the refining chamber is used for refining glass, the process comprising (i) providing a platinum group material and (ii) forming the refining chamber of claim 1 from the platinum group material so that the refining chamber has a wall thickness of 0.5 mm to 3 mm.

Claim 10 (new): The refining chamber according to claim 1, wherein the refining chamber has a wall thickness of approximately 0.7 mm to 1.5 mm, and is stiffened by shaping measures, said shaping measures comprising forming of creases, corners, waves, folds, or combinations thereof, at the circumference of the refining chamber.

Claim 11 (new): The refining chamber according to claim 1, wherein the refining chamber is manufactured from a FKS 16 Pt alloy.